REMARKS

This paper responds to the Office Action mailed on <u>October 19, 2005</u>.

The specification has been amended to update the priority data to include the issue date of parent Application No. 10/147,657.

Claims 1, 5, 15, 19, 24, and 28 are amended. Claims 1-36 remain pending in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

In the previously submitted Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and the 1449 Form dated 25 July 2005, Applicant notices a misprint for a patent number for one of the documents. Patent 6476594 should be 6876594. The correct document, patent 6876594, is now cited in a new Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 5-7, 9, 15, 19-25, 27-29, and 31-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ooishi (U.S. Patent No. 6,421,789) in view of Matsuzaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,088,255).

Independent claim 1 is amended and recites, among other things, an interval controller including "a frequency modifier" connected between the input nodes and the measuring delay elements for controlling the frequency of the measurement. Applicant is unable to find in Ooishi and Matsuzaki, either individual or in the proposed combination, a showing or fair suggestion of an interval controller including "a frequency modifier" connected between the input nodes and the measuring delay elements for controlling the frequency of the measurement. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 1.

Independent claim 5 is amended and recites, among other things, an interval controller including "a frequency modifier" located on the first path in which the interval controller is configured to control a frequency of the measurement to be unequal to a frequency of the external signal. Applicant is unable to find in Ooishi and Matsuzaki, either individual or in the proposed combination, a showing or fair suggestion of an interval controller including "a frequency modifier" located on the first path in which the interval controller is configured to control a frequency of the measurement to be unequal to a frequency of the external signal.

Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 5 and its dependent claims 6 and 7.

Independent claim 15 is amended and recites, among other things, an interval controller including "a frequency divider" connected between the input nodes and the measuring delay elements for controlling the frequency of the measurement. Applicant is unable to find in Ooishi and Matsuzaki, either individual or in the proposed combination, a showing or fair suggestion of an interval controller including "a frequency divider" connected between the input nodes and the measuring delay elements for controlling the frequency of the measurement. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 15.

Independent claim 19 is amended and recites, among other things, "performing the number of measurements includes modifying the frequency of the external signal". Applicant is unable to find in Ooishi and Matsuzaki, either individual or in the proposed combination, a showing or fair suggestion of "performing the number of measurements includes modifying the frequency of the external signal". Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 19 and its dependent claims 20-23.

Independent claim 24 is amended and recites, among other things, "performing the first measurement includes modifying the frequency of the external signal". Applicant is unable to find in Ooishi and Matsuzaki, either individual or in the proposed combination, a showing or fair suggestion of "performing the first measurement includes modifying the frequency of the external signal". Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 24 and its dependent claims 25 and 27.

Independent claim 28 is amended and recites, among other things, "performing the measurement includes modifying the frequency of the external signal". Applicant is unable to find in Ooishi and Matsuzaki, either individual or in the proposed combination, a showing or fair suggestion of "performing the measurement includes modifying the frequency of the external signal". Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 28 and its dependent claim 29.

Independent claim 31 recites, among other things, "dividing a frequency of the external signal to produce a start signal". Applicant is unable to find in Ooishi and Matsuzaki, either individual or in the proposed combination, a showing or fair suggestion of "dividing a frequency

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of the external signal to produce a start signal". Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 31 and its dependent claims 32-36.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 2-4, 8, 10-14, 16-18, 26, and 30.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6969 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.
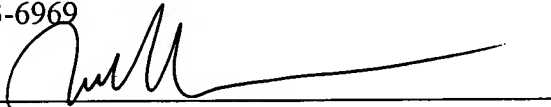
Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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Date __19 January 2006__   By _____
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this _19_ day of January, 2006.

_____KATE CANNON_____   _____
Name   Signature